

ORIGINALDecision No. 61175

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of)
 AMADOR STAGE LINES, INC. for permis-)
 sion to adjust rates on passenger)
 fares and express rates, along with)
 changes in rules and regulations.)

Application No 42617

OPINION AND ORDER

Amador Stage Lines, Inc., operates as a passenger stage corporation between Jackson and Stockton and between Jackson and Sacramento. Applicant also transports express shipments between these points. By this application, filed August 26, 1960, authority is sought to increase the passenger fares and express rates and to make certain changes in the rules named in applicant's tariffs.

A transportation engineer on the Commission's staff made a study of applicant's operations, which study is hereby made a part of this record and identified as Exhibit No. 1.

Applicant's present passenger tariff was placed in effect December 1, 1950. The proposed increases in passenger fares include establishing a 25 cent minimum fare. The present minimum fare is 10 cents although a six-month summary of passengers includes no 10 cent riders and only 56 who paid fares of less than 25 cents. No change in one-way fares that are presently 25 cents or above is proposed. Authority is requested to increase round-trip fares to 180 percent of one-way fares from the 175 percent rate that is presently used. Application of these proposed fares to passenger totals for the first six months of 1959 produces less than \$50 in added revenue.

The present express tariff was placed in effect on June 1, 1953. Based upon a sampling of the express shipments for the month of

August 1960, made by applicant, it is estimated that the proposed increase in express rates will result in an increase of \$2,675 per year, or approximately 37 percent, in express revenue.

These proposed rates compare favorably with the express rates charged by Western Greyhound Lines and Transcontinental Bus System for similar service.

The requested changes in tariff rules with respect to passenger, baggage, and express services are, for the most part, revisions of wording and groupings. There will be some additional revenue derived from storage and service charges, but the amount is believed to be negligible.

The study made by the staff shows the actual operating results for the year 1959, and these results adjusted to allow provision for wages for applicant's president who at present drives the bus three days per week and performs all the repair work but makes no charge to expenses for his services. A slight reduction was made in depreciation expense. The study also shows an estimate under the proposed increased fares and rates. These operating results are shown in the following table.

	<u>1959 Actual</u>	<u>1959 Adjusted</u>	<u>Under Proposed Fares & Rates</u>
<u>Revenue</u>			
Express	\$ 7,285	\$ 7,285	\$ 9,960
Passenger	7,702	7,702	7,780
Other	135	135	135
	<u>\$15,122</u>	<u>\$15,122</u>	<u>\$17,875</u>
Operating Expenses	<u>14,672</u>	<u>17,088</u>	<u>17,088</u>
Net Income	\$ 450	\$ <u>(1,966)</u>	\$ 787
Operating Ratio	97.0%	113.0%	95.6%

() Indicates loss

The operating results, as adjusted by the staff, will be adopted for the purpose of this proceeding. It is apparent that, under the present fares and rates, applicant is operating at a deficit, and that granting of the sought increases will do no more than provide a slight margin of revenue above expenses.

Copies of the application have been mailed to six principal shippers using applicant's express service and also to Western Greyhound Lines. Notices of the proposed increase in passenger fares and express rates have been posted on the buses and a notice of the increases has been inserted in the local newspaper. No protests have been received.

It is clear that immediate relief is necessary and the granting of the sought increases will enable applicant only to operate at a slight profit. In the circumstances, the Commission is of the opinion and finds that the proposed fare and rate increases are justified. The application will be granted. A public hearing is not necessary.

In view of the present operating loss, applicant will be authorized to establish the increased fares and rates on five days' notice, and the order which follows will be made effective in ten days.

Therefore, good cause appearing,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. That Amador Stage Lines, Inc., be and it is hereby authorized, on not less than five days' notice to the Commission and to the public, to establish the increased passenger fares and express rates and tariff changes proposed in Application No. 42617.

2. That, in addition to the required posting and filing of tariffs, applicant shall give notice to the public by posting in its buses and terminals a printed explanation of the fare increase. Such

notice shall be posted not less than five days before the effective date of the fare change and shall remain posted until not less than twenty days after said effective date.

3. That the authority granted in paragraph 1 above shall expire unless exercised within sixty days after the effective date of this order.

The effective date of this order shall be ten days after the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 13th day of December, 1960.

Guerrill P. ...
President
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...
...
Theodore ...
Commissioners